

returned to the Boys' Club in 1971 to continue his work and improve the life skills and lives of young men in the community. He has served the Mount Vernon community in various capacities for over 45 years. Mr. Thomas's accomplishments are too many to site, but a few must be noted.

In 1993, Mr. Thomas was joined by Denzel Washington, as they received The Boys and Girls Club of America Connection Magazines Mentor Magic Award. In 1997 Mr. Thomas received the "Man of the Year Award" from the National Association of Negro Business & Professional Women's Club of New Rochelle, New York.

Mr. Thomas worked with countless young people in an effort to either turn their lives around, or continue their lives on a positive path. Over the years, Mr. Thomas mentored thousands of young people. Some are now doctors, lawyers, bus drivers, ministers, fathers and mothers as well as the current executive director of the Mount Vernon Club—Lowes Moore. Mr. Thomas also influenced several former NBA players: brothers Gus and Ray Williams, as well as Calvin "Scooter" and Rodney McCray. Mr. Thomas always went about his work without praise or formal recognition. He has taught all the young people that entered the club that each has a responsibility to lend a hand to those less fortunate. His actions speak volumes as he worked with special needs children in New Rochelle and White Plains, New York. He also volunteered his services in many areas that included teaching chess, reading, a Youth Commissioner for the City of New Rochelle and of course, a basketball coach.

Mr. Thomas sacrificed a great deal to give back to his community. It is only fitting that the community honor his deeds by renaming the street in front of the Boys Club William "Billy" Thomas Boulevard. This is testament that hard work and dedication are appreciated by the community and that the seeds sowed will blossom for many years to come. The renaming of South Sixth Avenue to "William Billy Thomas Boulevard" is an important testament to the hundreds of lives nurtured on this block at this Boys' and Girls' Club under his leadership and care.

We in Congress share the City of Mount Vernon's recognition of William "Billy" Thomas's outstanding life with the nation.

PAULE MARSHALL—HONORING A
NEW YORK CITY LITERARY GREAT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today to acknowledge Paule Marshall, a renowned American author and poet who published her first novel, "Brown Girl, Brownstones", 50 years ago, and served as an influential trailblazer for emerging black female writers in the 60s and 70s.

I introduce into the RECORD an article from the New York Times of March 12, 2009 highlighting the career of Paule Marshall and her new publication titled "Triangular Road", a memoir that follows her early years as a writer.

Born in Brooklyn, NY to Caribbean parents and raised in a Bedford-Stuyvesant brown-

stone, Ms. Marshall brought a unique voice to the literary genre. She captured, in a fine balance, the stories of West Indian life emerged in American culture. It is no surprise that Langton Hughes selected her to accompany him on a tour of Europe in 1965.

Over the last 50 years, she has consistently remained relevant, publishing 2 collections of short stories and five novels, while simultaneously teaching at various universities, including Yale and New York University.

Ms. Marshall has received many awards and honors throughout her career, including an American Book Award and a John Dos Passos Award of Literature. She was a MacArthur Fellow and designated as a Literary Lion by the New York Public Library in 1994. In 2001, Marshall was inducted into the Celebrity Path at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

At this time, I would like to honor this distinguished New York City literary figure and offer recognition of the work she has contributed to American literature.

CELEBRATING COLONEL CHRISTOPHER O'CONNOR, COMMANDING OFFICER OF MIRAMAR MARINE CORPS AIR STATION

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colonel Christopher O'Connor, Commanding Officer of Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar (MCAS, Miramar) which I have the pleasure of representing. Colonel O'Connor has served his country with distinction for over twenty years and I wish him nothing but the best as a new chapter in his life begins.

Colonel O'Connor was born and raised in New York where he received his commission through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) at the University of Rochester in May of 1979. Since then, he has participated in humanitarian relief operations while deployed to the Republic of the Philippines, served as the Aviation Department's action officer for Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) issues and aviation training range systems and reported to the Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs in the Office of the Secretary of Defense where he served as the Country Director for Australia and New Zealand.

In August 2006, Colonel O'Connor took over as Commanding Officer of MCAS, Miramar where he has excelled in working with local leaders while representing the Marine Corp with professionalism and distinction to communities surrounding the base and San Diego County as a whole. Colonel O'Connor's decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, and Navy Achievement Medal.

I applaud the good service that Colonel O'Connor has provided this country. He has been an absolute pleasure to work with throughout his tenure and I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating this great American.

HONORING THE HEROIC ACTIONS
OF CHAD LINDSEY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bravery of Chad Lindsey, a constituent of mine who jumped onto the New York subway tracks to rescue a fellow passenger that had fallen.

On March 16, 2009, Mr. Lindsey was waiting for the subway at Penn Station in New York City when he saw a man fall onto the track and hit his head.

Knowing that a train was coming shortly, Mr. Lindsey courageously jumped onto the subway track. The man who fell was unconscious, and despite repeated attempts did not wake up. Yet, with the lights of the train coming toward them, Mr. Lindsey knew he had to act and used all his strength to pull the man to the platform edge and, with the help of others, lifted him to safety.

Thanks to Mr. Lindsey's quick thinking and selfless actions, the injured man was taken to the hospital and later released. Mr. Lindsey, having done his part, got on the next train, ready to go back to his everyday life as a working New York City actor.

In the days since the incident, Mr. Lindsey has tried to resist the attempts of the media to label him a "hero". But this is exactly what he is.

He did not hesitate before rushing to help someone else in need, even though his actions put himself at risk. For Mr. Lindsey, this act of bravery came naturally.

His courageous act reminded us that there are people willing to put themselves in danger for the sake of others. He sets an example that we all should strive toward.

I applaud Chad Lindsey for his brave actions, and I am so proud to call him both a constituent and hero.

COMMENDING PATRICIA MURPHY
OF UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National Women's History Month and to congratulate Patricia Murphy of Springfield, New Jersey who will be honored on Friday, March 27, 2009 at the 17th Annual Women of Excellence Dinner held in Union County, New Jersey.

This special annual event is hosted by the Union County Commission on the Status of Women in the Seventh Congressional District and highlights the amazing work of individuals who are making our communities better places to live. The Commission on the Status of Women recognizes the contributions of women in the fields of education, health care, the arts, government, business, law, community service, technology, public service and women's advocacy and lifetime achievement.

This year's Lifetime Achievement Award will be given to Patricia Murphy because of her extensive lifetime achievements. Presently,